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**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

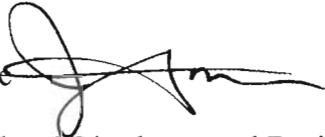
Office of the
Secretary

Office of Small
and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW

Washington, DC
20250-9501

TO: Agency Heads

FROM: James E. House 
Director
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

SUBJECT: AbilityOne Program Celebration

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) commemorates the AbilityOne Program (formerly known as the "JWOD" Program) during National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. The celebration is October 30 at 11:00 a.m. in the rear of the South Building cafeteria. Several AbilityOne non-profit agency representatives, including officials from the National Industries for the Blind, and NISH (serving people with severe disabilities) will be present to answer your questions and discuss their products and services.

The AbilityOne Program is an integral part of USDA's procurement strategy. Through our support of the AbilityOne Program, individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities provide USDA with a variety of supplies and services including grounds maintenance, packaged food commodities, uniforms, mailroom and custodial services.

All government purchase card users and acquisition personnel should make AbilityOne their first stop when purchasing supplies and services. To learn about the AbilityOne Program and the important role it plays in providing products and services to USDA and other federal agencies, please visit the web site at www.abilityone.gov or contact your Agency's AbilityOne Program Liaison.

I appreciate your continued support of this valuable program. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-720-7117 or Lisa Brown, AbilityOne Program Manager, at 202-690-0113.